(b) The above Initiative includes 12 schemes of 3,750 MW in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) 10 Hydro-electric Projects of 4,054 MW installed capacity are at present under development and 12 Hydro-electric Schemes with installed capacity of 2,513 MW are under different stages of Survey and Investigation in Himachal Pradesh.

Power deficit in the country

1139. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the energy and peaking shortages at the end of the Ninth Plan are 7.5 per cent and 12.6 per cent respectively;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the working group on power estimated that the energy and peaking shortages would be 11.6 per cent and 9.5 per cent respectively, if the capacity addition targets are met;

(c) given the successive failures in Eighth Plan, Ninth Plan and the first year of Tenth Plan, whether Government are really confident of achieving the capacity addition target in Tenth Plan;

(d) the projected deficits after Tenth Plan if the plan targets are not achieved; and

(e) the contingency plan to tackle the huge deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Progress of all identified projects is being closely monitored. The Central Electricity Authority has a nodal officer for each project, both at the conception stage as well as during execution to assist in obtaining necessary clearances and resolving major bottlenecks. Financial assistance through Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation is also available.

(d) and (e) Apart from capacity addition target of 41,110 MW in the Tenth Plan Ministry of Power have taken following steps to further improve the power supply position in the country:

* Undertaking energy conservation measures.

* Reducing technical losses in distribution. The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) is designed for the attainment of this objective.

* Undertaking Renovation and Modernization (R&M) of existing power stations which combined with improved Operation and Maintenance practices would lead to higher availability and generation.

* Export of power from surplus to deficit region through the gradual development of a National Grid to optimize utilization of generating capacity on an all India basis.

* Installation of captive generating plants. The new Electricity Bill provides for a liberal framework for construction of captive power plants freely.

Selling power of consumers at exorbitant price by SEBs

1140. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Electricity Boards of Electricity Utilities purchase power mainly form NTPC and NHPC at comparatively cheaper rates and then sell it to the consumers at exorbitant price;

(b) if so, the details in this regard: and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to protect the interests of consumers particularly the domestic consumers of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) State electricity Boards/ Electricity Utilities purchase power mainly from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and National Hydroelectric Power Corporaton (NHPC. The average cost of generation of energy for the year 2001 -02 in case of operating projects work out to about Rs. 1.43/kwh in case of NTPC and about Rs. 1.10/kwh in case of NHPC. As against this the average cost of supply for the year 2001-2002 of the various utilities was 349.85 paise/kwh.